

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

BERNETTA LASHAY WILLIS

a/k/a “Nettie,” “Hot Girl,” “Hottie,”

“Hi-Girl,” “LaShay,” and

LITASHA WASHINGTON,

a/k/a “Tasha.”

CR. NO. 2:06cr0071-MEF

United States's Requested Voir Dire Questions

The United States of America, by and through Leura G. Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, requests the Court to propound the attached questions to the jury venire in this case. The United States, however, respectfully reserves the right to submit additional requests as developments in this case may warrant.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of March, 2007.

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United States Attorney

/s/ Christopher A. Snyder

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1. Have any of you heard or read anything about this case on television, radio or in the newspaper based on what you already have been told about the facts of this case?

If so, have you formed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of either of the defendants?

If so, have you formed an opinion as to what, if anything, really happened?

Do you feel that you cannot determine the guilt or innocence of a defendant solely on the evidence introduced at trial?

2. Have any of you discussed any aspect of this case with anyone who claimed to have some special knowledge of what actually occurred?

If so, with whom and under what circumstances? What knowledge did this person claim to have? Have you formed some opinion based on what this person told you?

3. What do you think about FEMA (sometimes know as the Federal Emergency Management Agency)? What do you think of FEMA's handling of Hurricane Katrina? Does anyone think that FEMA should be held responsible for theft that occurred during the Hurricane?

4. Have you or any of your friends or relatives ever had any unfavorable association or dealings with the United States Government, especially FEMA? If so, who or what?

5. Do any of you have any reason why you would be unable to give either the government or the defendants a fair trial based solely upon the fact that FEMA is involved?

6. If you were broke and down on your luck, do you think it would be o.k. to take from the Government just to get by, even if the amount is small? What about to make up for past wrongs done to you by the Government?

7. Would you be able to convict someone of a crime even if she only stole a small amount of money? How small is too small?

Would your opinion change if you believed many people were similarly stealing small amounts so that it would be “no big deal?”

8. Has any member of the panel, or a relative or close friend ever been employed by a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency?

If so, what position was or is held?

9. Other than a traffic ticket, has any member of the panel ever had an unpleasant experience involving law enforcement?

If so, please explain.

10. Has any member of the panel, or a relative or close friend ever been employed by a law firm or other organization which participates in the defense of criminal cases?

If so, please state their names, the type of law they practice and the location of their practice.

11. Do you or any of your friends or relatives know any of the attorneys in this case? If so, who and how?

If a relative was or is so employed, do you often discuss their jobs with them?

12. Do you know any other member of the jury panel? If so, who and how?

Was it a criminal case before? If so, what kind of criminal case? What was the result?

13. Has any member of the panel ever had any dealings with the Department of Homeland Security, its Office of Inspector General, the Office of the United States Attorney, the Department of Justice, or any local office of the District Attorney?

If so, please elaborate.

14. Has any member of the jury panel, or a member of his or her family, ever been employed by local, state or the federal government?

If so, in what capacity?

15. Has any member of the panel ever had any training in law or in law enforcement?

If so, please describe.

16. Does any member of the panel know either of the defendants, Ms. Bernetta LaShay Willis or Ms. Litasha Washington, or any member of any of Ms. Willis's or Ms. Washington's family, including but not limited to [attorney read names], or any of Ms. Willis's or Ms. Washington's friends, including but not limited to [attorney read names], on either a personal, business, or professional basis?

If so, who, and in what capacity?

If so, are you able to put aside feelings resulting from such knowledge, regardless of whether they are favorable or unfavorable to a defendant, or to any member of a

defendant's family or friends of a defendant, and decide this case solely upon the evidence?

17. Do you or any of your friends or relatives know any of the witnesses in this case (have attorneys read a list of their witnesses)?

18. Has any member of the panel, or a relative or close friend, ever been a witness to a crime?

If so, what type of crime and when did it occur? Was the case prosecuted?

19. Same question, but this time a victim of a crime?

Is so, what type of crime and when did it occur? Was the case prosecuted?

Regarding the case in either situation, was there anything in your dealings with the police, the court, the prosecutor or the defense lawyer that left you unhappy or unsatisfied? Please elaborate.

Did you testify?

What was the result?

Were you satisfied with the result?

20. Have you or any friend or relative ever been arrested or convicted for any crime other than a traffic offense?

If so, when, and for what? By virtue of your experience, will you be able to be entirely impartial to both the prosecution and the defense in this case?

21. Do any of you have any members of your family or friends who are currently incarcerated in any penal institution, jail, or community based correctional facility?

If so, what is your relationship to that individual and what crime did he/she commit?

If so, do you feel that this relationship will prevent you from being a fair and impartial juror in this case?

Did you or your relative or close friend testify? With regard to your participation in the case, was there anything in your dealings with the police, the court, the prosecutor, or the defense lawyer that left you unhappy or unsatisfied? Please elaborate.

What was the result?

Were you satisfied with the result?

22. Does any member of the panel belong to any professional, educational, religious, social or other organization?

If so, what are they?

23. Do any of you have any feelings, whether they may be moral, religious, philosophical or otherwise that would prevent you from being a fair and impartial juror in this case or that would prevent you from sitting in judgment on your fellow man?

24. To admit to having some sympathy for the defendants or the government in this case is nothing to be ashamed of and does not reflect badly upon you as a person. However, both the government and the defendants are entitled to have this case heard by a fair and impartial jury that will decide the case solely according to the evidence admitted in this Court and according to the Court's instructions on the law. The law provides that the jury may not be governed by sympathy, prejudice, or public opinion. With this in mind, do any of you have any reason why you would be unable to give either

the government or the defendants a fair trial based solely upon the evidence admitted at the trial and the instructions given by the Court?

25. Do all of you realize that as a juror, in your deliberations as to guilt, you must not consider any possible punishment?

26. Can all of you decide this case solely on the evidence presented in this courtroom, applying the law as given to you by the Court, and decide it without bias, prejudice, and sympathy? If not, please stand.

27. Do each and every one of you understand that during the course of the trial an attorney is not permitted to speak to the jurors and, therefore, if you see an attorney in the hall or on the street, you should not hold it against the attorney if he or she does not acknowledge you or speak to you?

28. Do any of you have any physical problems which will interfere with your service as a juror, or will prevent you from reading the documents that are introduced into evidence or from hearing the testimony that will come from the witness stand?

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that March 5, 2007, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court, using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

Respectfully submitted,
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